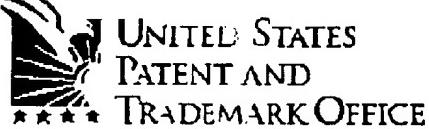


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Pitney Bowes

Facsimile

To: Examiner H.Y. Sough
Group Art Unit: 3621
Fax No.: (703) 746-7238
From: Brian A. Lemm
Date: July 15, 2002
Subject: Application Serial No.: 09/242,210
Attorney Docket No.: E-731

Pages: 1 of 14

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION - PLEASE ENTER

Attached please find the following:

1. Amendment Transmittal Letter for 09/242,210 (2 pages); and
2. Amendment for 09/342,210 (11 pages);

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 746-7238 on July 15, 2002.

Brian A. Lemm
Name
Signature

(0000063.1)
Received from <203 924 3919> at 7/15/02 3:35:43 PM [Eastern Daylight Time]



Pitney Bowes Inc.

Facsimile

To: Examiner C. Scherr
Fax No.: (703) 746-7238
Tel. No.: (703) 305-0625
From: Brian A. Lemm
Date: December 18, 2002
Subject: Application Serial No.: 09/242,210
Attorney Docket No.: E-731

Corporate Counsel
Intellectual Property & Technology Law
35 Waterview Drive
P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000
203-924-3836
203-924-3919 Fax
Brian.Lemm@pb.com
www.pitneybowes.com

Official

Pages: 1 of 16

FAX RECEIVED

DEC 18 2002

Examiner Scherr:

GROUP 3600

As you requested in your telephone call of today, enclosed please find a copy of the following documents previously filed with the U.S. PTO:

1. Fax cover page dated July 15, 2002 (1 page);
2. Amendment Transmittal Letter for 09/242,210 (2 pages);
3. Amendment After Final Rejection for 09/242,210 (11 pages); and
4. Auto-Reply Facsimile Transmission confirming receipt by the U.S. PTO of the above documents on July 15, 2002.

If you have any further questions, please call me.

Thank you,

Brian A. Lemm
Name

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian A. Lemm". It is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Signature

*copy
P.02
B
139B*



Facsimile

COPY

To: Examiner H.Y. Sough
Group Art Unit: 3621
Fax No.: (703) 746-7238
From: Brian A. Lemm
Date: July 15, 2002
Subject: Application Serial No.: 09/242,210
Attorney Docket No.: E-731

Pages: 1 of 14

Pitney Bowes Inc.

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Official

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DEC 18 2002

GROUP 3600

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION - PLEASE ENTER

Attached please find the following:

1. Amendment Transmittal Letter for 09/242,210 (2 pages); and
2. Amendment for 09/242,210 (11 pages);

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 746-7238 on July 15, 2002.

Brian A. Lemm

Name


Signature

(0004893.1)

COPY**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:) Attorney Docket No.: E-731

L. Gravell et al) Group Art Unit: 3621

Serial No.: 09/242,210) Examiner: H. Y. Sough

Filed: November 4, 1999) Date: July 15, 2002

Title: **VIRTUAL POSTAGE METERING SYSTEM****AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application. The fee has been calculated as shown below.

	Claims Remaining After Amendment	-	Highest Number Previously Paid For	=	Number of Extra Claims Present	X	Rate	=	Additional Fee
Total Claims	11	-	20	=	0	X	\$18.00	=	0.00
Independent Claims	3	-	3	=	0	X	\$84.00	=	0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT									0.00

(10004690.1)

Serial No.: 09/242,210

- 2 -

Docket No.: E-731

No additional fee is required.

Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account Number
16-1885.



Brian A. Lemm
Reg. No. 43,748
Attorney for Applicants
Telephone (203) 924-3836

PITNEY BOWES INC.
Intellectual Property and
Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive
P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

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Brian A. Lemm

Name



Signature

COPY**COPY****RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 3621****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:

Attorney Docket No.: E-731

L. Gravell *et al.*

Group Art Unit: 3621

Serial No.: 09/242,210

Examiner: H. Y. Sough

Filed: November 4, 1999

Date: July 15, 2002

**For: VIRTUAL POSTAGE
METERING SYSTEM**

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Sir:

In response to the Final Rejection dated May 14, 2002, attached please find the following items:

1. A clean version of amended claims 1 and 9;
2. Appropriate remarks; and
3. A marked version of the amendments to show the changes.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 746-7238 on July 15, 2002.

Brian A. Lemm

Name


Signature

Replace page 12, lines 17-22, as follows:

A4

At Data Center 30, the authentication keys are not available in plain text, but must be distributed to the mailer. Conventional methods of distributing and updating the authentication key for each mailer can be used. See, for example, previously noted U.S. Patent No. 5,812,666, which describes a key management system for distributing and updating cryptographic keys to the secure boxes and the mailer's PC.

Replace page 19, lines 6-14, as follows:

A9

Database Server 36 includes records of mail volumes and accounting of postal funds within it database. By access Data Center 30, the postal service can perform on-line tracking of selected information available from Data Center 30. Such information includes volumes of mail pieces processed or in process, allocation of funds to originating post offices and meter account use. Such on-line tracking allows the postal service to manage its resources in a more efficient manner. For example, the postal service could identify locations with peak workloads and could determine locations of mail fraud by comparing mail volumes with expected postal revenues.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2-8. Please add new claims 9-17 as follows:

9. A system for dispensing postage value comprising:

AO

a data center communicatively coupled to a remote computer via a network, a user initiating a request to the data center via the remote processor to dispense postage value to be printed by a printer coupled to the remote processor, the data center comprising:

a storage device to store data records, the data records including a user account and a meter account associated with the user;